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Oregon Hospital for the Insane reports

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Report of the Superintendent of the Oregon Hospital for the Insane, <1872>

Biennial report of the Superintendent ... 1874-1880

Biennial report of the Oregon Hospital for the Insane to the Legislative Assesmbly, <1882>

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BIENNIAL REPORT

OF THE

SUPERINTENDENT

OF THE

INSANE ASYLUM.

1876.

SALEM, OREGON:
MART. V. BROWN, STATE PRINTER.
1876.

REPORT

OF THE

SUPERINTENDENT

OF THE

OREGON HOSPITAL FOR THE INSANE.

To His Excellency,
Hon. L. F. Grover,
Governor of the State of Oregon:

I herewith transmit, as required by law, the seventh biennial report of the condition of the Oregon Hospital for the Insane.

REPORT.

Whole number of patients remaing in the Hospital September 1st, 1874:—

STATE.

Males	140
Females	53

PRIVATE.

Males	—
Females	2
Total	195

Whole number of patients admitted from September 1st, 1874, to September 1st, 1876:—

STATE.

Males	89
Females	42

PRIVATE.

Males	8
Females	3
Total	142

Whole number of patients treated in the Hospital from September 1st, 1874, to September 1st, 1876:—

STATE.

Males	229
Females	95

PRIVATE.

Males	8
Females	5
Total	337

Whole number of patients discharged from 1st of September, 1874, to 1st of September, 1876:—

CURED.

STATE.

Males	51
Females	18

PRIVATE.

Males	2
Females	2

IMPROVED.

STATE.

Males	10
Females	11

PRIVATE.

Males	3
Females	2

UNIMPROVED.

STATE.

Males	3
Total	83

Whole number of deaths:—

STATE.

Males.....25
Females..... 8

Total.....33

Whole number of escapes:—

STATE.

Males.....3

Whole number of patients remaining in Hospital September 1st, 1876:—

STATE.

Males.....156
Females..... 58

PRIVATE.

Males..... 3
Females..... 1

Total.....218

RECAPITULATION.

Number of patients in Hospital Sept. 1st, 1874.....195
Number of patients admitted up to Sept. 1st, 1876..142

Total.....337
Number of patients discharged, etc.....118
Number of patients remaining Sept. 1st, 1876.....218

Total.....337

Of the whole number of State and private patients discharged cured, fifteen remained in the Hospital less than three months; seventeen, less than six months; twelve,

less than nine months; five, less than twelve months; and four more than one year.

Of the whole number of State and private patients discharged improved, ten remained in the Hospital less than three months; four, less than six months; two, less than nine months; and six over twelve months; and three were removed unimproved within a short time of their admission.

CAUSE OF DEATH.

Twenty-five males and eight females, State patients, have died since my last report. Of these deaths, seven resulted from pulmonary consumption; two from organic disease of the brain; four from exhaustion of chronic mania; four from paralysis and general debility; four from softening of the brain; three from epileptic convulsions; one from general paresis; one from old age and debility; three from exhaustion of acute mania; one from disease of the heart; one from congestion of the brain, and two from suicide.

NATIVITY.

Of the nativity of the two hundred and eighteen patients remaining in the Hospital September 1st, 1876, there are of the several States, as follows:

New York	12
Pennsylvania	8
Virginia	3
Kentucky	6
Tennessee	9
Indiana	12
Illinois	14

Missouri	30
Ohio	7
Iowa	4
Oregon	9
Massachusetts	4
Maine	2
Maryland	2
Michigan	2
New Jersey	2
New Hampshire	3
Wisconsin	1
Connecticut	1
Unknown	11

FOREIGN BIRTH.

Austria	2
Africa	1
Canada	4
China	4
Denmark	1
England	6
France	4
Finland	1
Germany	13
Holland	1
Ireland	26
Mexico	2
Norway	1
Nova Scotia	1
Poland	1
Prussia	2
Scotland	3
Sweden	2
Switzerland	1

Of those remaining in the Hospital at this date the form of disease is: Acute mania, 38; chronic mania, 101; epilepsy, 18; dementia, 34; idiocy, 17; melancholy, 6.

Of the whole number of patients in the Hospital, seventy-six are considered curable, one hundred incurable, and forty-two doubtful.

Eleven private patients have been received since my last report. Six have been discharged, two have been transferred to the State, and three still remain in the institution.

The rates of recovery to admissions since my last report is 37⅓.

The deaths amount to 9¾ per cent. of the whole number treated.

The admissions for the past two years have been fourteen more than the preceeding term.

The highest number of patients under treatment at the Hospital at one time was 218. The lowest number was 192.

The average number of patients under treatment during the whole period was 205½.

The whole number of patients under treatment was, males, 237; females, 99.

The highest number of males under treatment at any one time was 158. The highest number of females, 60.

The lowest number of males under treatment at any one time was 141. The lowest number of females, 51.

The number of patients in the Hospital September 1st, 1876, is as follows, viz:

Baker	5
Benton	8
Clackamas	5
Clatsop	7

Coos	6
Douglas	9
Grant	4
Jackson	18
Josephine	7
Lane	8
Linn	13
Multnomah	66
Marion	21
Polk	13
Washington	6
Wasco	5
Umatilla	3
Union	3
Yamhill	7

PRIVATE PATIENTS.

Marion	1
Idaho Territory	2
Victoria, B. C	1

The following are the ages of patients: From ten to twenty, 12; from twenty to thirty, 16; from thirty to forty, 84; from forty to fifty, 64; from fifty to sixty, 29; from sixty to seventy, 11; from seventy to eighty, 1; over one hundred, 1.

ESCAPES.

Since my last report, four patients have escaped, of whom one has been returned, leaving three at large.

The per centage of recoveries has not equalled that of previous years, but it is a full average of the various Asylums of other States. The condition of the patients brought here for treatment, was such that we could not

reasonably calculate upon the percentage of former years. Indeed, under all the circumstances, I feel that better results could not have been expected, however desirable, when we take into consideration the hopeless condition of many of our patients.

A large number of those placed under treatment were old, and many others broken down in physical health, as well as in mind, several living but a few days or weeks after they were received in the Hospital.

Unfortunately, two cases of suicide have occurred since my last report. Such results will take place in institutions of this character, however carefully guarded and vigilantly watched over.

Two homicides and two suicides in fourteen years, I apprehend, is fully as low a percentage as any other institution of this kind can show, and while it is to be deeply regretted, we have to be satisfied with doing our very best to prevent such results.

The number of deaths is the same as stated in my last report, which makes a less percentage, owing to the greater number under treatment. It is worthy of note that a larger number of deaths have occurred from acute mania and from softening of the brain than heretofore, and also that a less number of deaths have occurred from pulmonary consumption.

With the exception of those of acute mania, death has been the result of, or natural termination, depending directly or indirectly on, the original diseases with which the patients were afflicted at the time of their admission, and of which the mental disturbances were only the symptom.

AMUSEMENTS.

The amusements heretofore in use have been continued, and the patients are encouraged to engage in them, which has afforded healthy exercise, and to some degree, directed their minds from their own real or supposed troubles.

SANITARY CONDITION.

General health has prevailed amongst the household, and epidemic or general sickness has not intruded upon us. To the feeble, tonics and stimulants, together with the most digestible and nutritious diet, have restored their energies and fortified them against disease. Out-door exercise has greatly assisted in promoting the present desirable sanitary condition.

Of the appropriation made by the Legislature of 1872, for the purpose of assisting those who, having recovered, wish to return to their friends or home, there remains the sum of one hundred and one and 10-100, dollars.

I have used great economy in the expenditure of this fund, and am satisfied that it has done much good, and would advise that a small appropriation be added to that already on hand.

The railroads, as I learn, will not give hereafter half-fare tickets, and the cost of sending patients over these routes will, in the future, be greater than in the past.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS.

In behalf of the inmates of the Asylum, I take pleasure in acknowledging the receipt from J. S. Pearson, New York City, of 120 vols. bound books, one hundred Stereoscopic views, periodicals, etc.; from Rev. T. L. Eliot, two copies weekly New York "Tribune," periodicals, papers,

etc.; from Mr. St. John, a large package of the "Scientific American;" to the McGibeny troupe, for a pleasing entertainment given in the Assembly Hall; to the Revs. Doane, Dillon, Wrixon and Eliot, for religious services in the afternoon, and to Rev. Father Glorieaux for services in the morning of one Sunday in each month.

To Dr. C. C. Strong, State Visiting Physician, my acknowledgements are due for professional aid. To all who have shared with me the responsibilities and labor incident to such an institution, and to whose efforts much of whatever success has been achieved, is due, and for their kindness, forbearance and tenderness towards those under their immediate charge, I return my cordial thanks.

To Your Excellency, I acknowledge my obligations for the courtesy you have extended to me, and for the interest you have displayed in the welfare of those under my charge.

In conclusion, I must be permitted to express the hope that in the future, as in the past, the Representatives of the people of our State will continue to provide for the wants and necessities of our fellow-citizens who have had, or may chance the have, the misfortune to be deprived of their reason.

J. C. HAWTHORNE,
Superintendent.

EAST PORTLAND, Sept. 1st, 1876.